

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 00097 060643Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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 SS-15 USIA-15 /073 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7650
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS DACCA 0097

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, BG, IN
SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DELHI VISIT

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO NEW DELHI HAS BEEN MAINLY LIMITED TO NEWS STORIES, MOSTLY TAKEN FROM SAMACHAR, AND A FEW EDITORIAL PAGE COLUMNS. PRESS HAD BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH IMPENDING ARRIVAL OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN AND NOW WITH HIS BEING HERE.

2. THE JANUARY 3 EDITION OF THE BANGLADESH TIMES CARRIED A SUMMARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT AND PRINTED A LENGTHY EXCERPT FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. CARTER. THERE HAVE BEEN NO EDITORIALS YET IN THE ENGLISH PRESS. A COLUMNIST IN THE LEFTIST WEEKLY HOLIDAY DECLARED THAT "THE ULTIMATE U.S. OBJECTIVE SEEMS TO BE THE FORMATION OF A NEW DIPLOMATIC AND POSSIBLE MILITARY ARRANGEMENT IN LATER STAGES OF ASEAN TYPE IN WHICH INDIA WILL PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE AND LOOK TOWARD WASHINGTON FOR INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE." TWO COLUMNISTS WRITING RESPECTIVELY IN ITTEFAQ AND SANGBAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT RELATIONS
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BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA WERE IMPROVING AFTER TWO AND A HALF DECADES OF COOLNESS, BUT EACH AUTHOR CAUTIONED THAT AN ATTEMPT TO PUSH INDIA TO REGIONAL LEADERSHIP WILL ONLY IMPAIR THE POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM IN THE SUB-CONTINENT.

3. A NEGATIVE NOTE WAS SOUNDED IN THE JANUARY 3 EDITORIAL OF AZAD (A STRONGLY ISLAMIC NEWSPAPER) WHICH

ADDITIONALLY SAID PRESIDENT'S ESPOUSAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS
SHOULD ALSO EXTEND TO PALESTINIANS IN MIDDLE EAST.
BERGESEN

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